

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01677 151229Z

43

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 MC-02 EB-07 AID-05 IGA-02 ACDA-05

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R 151010Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8824

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, US, CH, TW

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL ON CUTBACK IN FMS CREDITS FOR THE ROC

1. MARCH 13 CHUNG KUO SHIH PAO (CKSP) EDITORIAL COMMENTED ON AN AP DISPATCH DATED MARCH 10, WASHINGTON WHICH DISCUSSED THE REASONS BEHIND A "SHARP CUTBACK IN US-FINANCED MILITARY CREDIT SALES TO TAIWAN." THE AP DISPATCH WAS CARRIED IN THE MARCH 12 CKSP BUT DID NOT APPEAR IN ANY OF THE OTHER LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.

2. THE CKSP EDITORIAL SUPPORTED THE VIEW CONTAINED IN THE AP DISPATCH THAT THE US CUTBACK IN FMS CREDITS FOR THE ROC WAS A GESTURE DESIGNED TO KEEP THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION MOVING. JUDGING FROM STATEMENTS MADE BY KISSINGER AND FORD, THE EDITORIAL ADDED, THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE US POLICY OF SEEKING NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE PRC. BUT, IT CONTINUED, THE US IS NOT EAGER TO ESTABLISH FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE

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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 01677 151229Z

PRC BECAUSE CHANGES IN THE CCP ARE BEYOND US CONTROL

AND BECAUSE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE US ARE AN OBSTACLE TO
PROGRESS IN US/ROC RELATIONS.

3. THE EDITORIAL CONDEMNED THE VIEW CONTAINED IN THE AP
DISPATCH THAT THE CUT IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE WAS JUSTIFIED
BECAUSE OF THE ROC'S STRONG ECONOMY AND THE NEAR COMPLETION
OF A FIGHTER ASSEMBLY PLANT. THIS VIEW IS "A LIE DELIVER-
ATELY CREATED AND SPREAD BY THE PRC TO ELIMINATE UNEASINESS
ON THE PART OF THE USG AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE," THE
EDITORIAL SAID. IT ADDED THAT THE PRC WANTS TO CONVINCE
THE US THAT THE ROC WILL CONTINUE TO SURVIVE AND TO
ENJOY ECONOMIC PROSPERITY EVEN IF THE US AND THE PRC
ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, IN ORDER TO RID THE US OF
ITS "MORAL WORRIES" WHEN IT DECIDES TO BETRAY ITS ALLY.

4. COMMENT: IN THE PAST WEEK CHUNG KUO SHIH PAO HAS
TAKEN THE LEAD IN REPORTING ITEMS ON US MILITARY
ASSISTANCE AND TROOP WITHDRAWALS. UNGER

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